P.01/06

RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 0 5 2004



PTO/S8/97 (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2005, 0MB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE and to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Under the Peperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to resp Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office January 5, 2004 on Date **Christine Rounds** Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of transmission, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.8. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.8 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducings should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 0 5 2004

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

OFFICIAL

I hereby verify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to The United States	0	
Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below, to the following phone number		
(Name of Person Transmitting Facsimile (Signature of Person Transmitting Facsimile)		
5 January 2004		
(Date)		

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)		
Seiichi Tagawa et al.) Examiner: J. Rhee		
_) Art Unit: 1772		
on DAMPER AND PROCESS THEREOF)) Date: August 13, 2003		
Serial No.: 09/936,538	(
Filed: September 13, 2001) (Our Docket No. 6404-03WOUS)		

Hartford, Connecticut, January 5, 2004

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

SIR:

REMARKS

This request for reconsideration is made in response to a Final Office Action dated November 4, 2003, in which the following rejection was made:

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. (02085543) in view of Hamaekers (U.S. Patent 5,966,996).

Claims 8 and 9 are currently pending in the application.